



BY FINEGAN KRUCKEMEYER DIRECTED BY **JENNY MILLINGER**

THE BIG IDEA:

Courage and Adventure

WHAT THE PLAY IS ABOUT

In a seaside village where men build boats and women do not, young Suzette knows she is different - she longs for the sea and believes she is meant for something greater than a life on land. When a miraculous event occurs, Suzette must prove herself worthy of her destiny. Loading her loved ones onto a boat she built, Suzette sets to sea. What follows is a tale of courage, community, and the possibility that sometimes it takes a single person to change everything.

CONNECTION TO STANDARDS

2.SP1.3 Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.

5.RL.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.

K.G1.2 Explore locations in stories shared; **K.G2.1** Explain how water and weather impacts humans.

21st Century Skills: Leadership and Collaboration

Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ The play is set in a village 'where men build boats and women do not.' Should boys and girls have a chance to do anything they want or should boys and girls do different things?
- ★ How does your imagination help make sharing and listening to stories more enjoyable?

Start a conversation after the show:

- What is a dream you hope to achieve one day? How are you working to make it happen?
 Suzette's village thinks women cannot sail. Has anyone ever thought you could not do something? How did that feel? What would you do or say to prove them wrong?
- ★ The Captain says a story is "owned by anyone who cares to believe it". What stories have been passed down to you that you feel you 'own' now? What do we learn from stories?
- Why do you think One Leg Pete only talks when he is speaking for Suzette? What are other ways we communicate? Do you know anyone who communicates differently?
- The women on the boat sing to help the whitehats and bluehats instead of fighting. What are more ways you can solve problems like this?

WRITE ABOUT IT

Journal entry or free-writing prompts for before or after the show:

- ★ Suzette's actions change the future for women in her village, even though she is only one person. Who are people in real life you know of who made a big impact like this? How might you be able to make such a change too? What would you hope to change?
- ★ Imagine you are sailing across the sea. Who will travel with you? Where will you go? What adventures will you have? Draw or write your adventure!

TALK ABOUT IT

Our amazing volunteer librarian Sharon Ewers has put together a great list of books connected to ideas and themes in *Suzette Who Set To Sea*.

READ ABOUT IT

Find the full list by going to https://bit.ly/2MNbMOh and clicking Book List



Grilled Cheese and Dragons By Nancy E. Krulik Grades 1-3



Some Kind of Courage By Dan Gemeinhart Grades 2-6



Igraine the Brave By Cornelia Funke Grades 3-6

EXPLORE IT



Close Reading Activity: Actors as Close Readers...

Theatre is a collection of choices. A choice is an artistic decision that is made to highlight a component of the character's personality, the story, or the theme. An actor's job is to draw evidence from the text to make choices that bring characters to life on stage.

Activity: Reading for Emotional Context

The next page of this document contains scenes from *Suzette Who Set To Sea*. Have the students read the scenes. Work together to decide on vocal choices for the characters based on the text. Play around with different choices to to see how the meaning of the scenes change. Pay close attention to the text to find information about what the characters are feeling and doing. When making choices, think about pacing (fast or slow), pitch (high or low), emotion (what the character is feeling), and subtext (underlying meaning). Share the scenes with others!

The following are scenes from *Suzette Who Set To Sea* by Finegan Kruckemeyer to be used for educational purposes only.

CAPTAIN: The men on the boats, they were gone. And in that second, everyone imagined the same horrible thing.

CONROY & PETE: The Bone Holder!

CAPTAIN: Which was a fish with that particular name because it's particular belly...held bones! Held many bones, of many sailors!

CONROY: Everyone acted like sad whales then - and wailed. And they would have kept wailing for a long time if Suzette hadn't at that moment shouted:

PETE: 'Good women of the village - I have a plan! The men we cannot see! Because they're lost at sea! So we need to set to sea! With a boat beyond the trees!'

CAPTAIN: And it was at this moment that Suzette-

CONROY: Who had absolutely, positively, well and truly, been told over and over again, that girls must never, ever think of boats - or sailing boats, or building boats.

PETE: ...Announced that she had built a boat

*Feel free to split up this storytelling section however you wish among students.

One man, who's a sailor, he stands in the water, and holds in his arms a wife and two daughters, he has missed so very much. And one of them says:

'Papa, that boat you see has taken us to the end of the world and back - and I built it myself. And that sea you see, it has shown us who are girls many challenges, and us who are girls have weathered them all. So from now on, I think I will be going out to sail with you sometimes. And that is the way it is'.

And the man says:

'That seems only fair'.

Because he understands now, that it is.

LEARN ABOUT IT

Women and the Sea

- **1600-1900:** Sailing ships reigned supreme on the ocean.¹
 - Seagoing careers were closed to women. A woman might disguise herself as a man and assume a fake name. If she was discovered, her career would be over.
 - Women could only take part on a ship by being the captain's wife or daughter.
- **1917:** The U.S. Navy began allowing women to serve.²
- **1944:** President Roosevelt approved the Navy to admit African-American women.
- World War I, World War II: Employment was open to women working in the shipyard.
- **1994:** Lisa Clayton became the first woman to sail around the world alone, in 285 days.
- **Today:** Women can pursue careers on the water, but still face many challenges in a male-dominated field. Despite these challenges, more and more women are pursuing their dreams and honing their skills to work in maritime industries.

Making A Difference

Suzette makes a difference in her village by helping women sail. But remember, big differences start with small actions that take courage. **Here are simple ways YOU can make a difference:**³

- **Bring People Together!** Smile at someone or say hello to make their day. Reach out if you know someone is sad and remember to include everyone whenever you can.
- **Be a Listener, Pay Attention!** Sometimes the best thing you can do for someone is to be there for them and listen. But remember, people communicate with actions and expressions as much as they do with words, so it's important to truly pay attention.
- **Do Small Things to Show You Care!** Draw a picture, write a letter. Make a simple gift. Give a hug to someone you love with their permission. Look for ways to be a helper.
- **Stay Informed!** Ask questions about topics that you care about. With adult supervision, go online to learn more and see if you can take action.
- 1. Read more at https://www.nps.gov/safr/learn/historyculture/maritimewomenhistory.htm
- 2. Read more at https://www.marinersmuseum.org/sites/micro/women/timeline/index.htm
- 3. Read more at https://www.mamasmiles.com/simple-ways-children-can-make-a-difference/





ENGAGE WITH IT

Different things engage different people. Explore what is exciting to you!

- Wonderful Activities Exploring Gender Roles for Young People: https://humaneeducation.org/blog/2018/ boys-that-3-activities-exploring-gender-rolesyoung-children/
- Ocean Themed Crafts and Activities: https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2015/06/ocean-activities-for-kids.html
- **Storytelling Activities: http://www.storyarts.org/lessonplans/lessonideas/index.html**
- Learn About Important Women in History: https://www.ducksters.com/biography/women_leaders/

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE!

Bring a professional Teaching Artist to your classroom to lead an arts-based, standards-driven lesson connected to the play:

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#SHAREWITHUS

Follow us on social media and share your comments and photos! #ChildsplayAZ #SuzetteWhoSetToSea

ABOUT CHILDSPLAY

Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company of adult actors who perform for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content, or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love, and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

> For more information: www.childsplayaz.org